

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, lines 9-18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

****** a first step (a) in which the bis-hydrodimerization of butadiene to 1,7-octadiene is effected in the presence of a catalyst based on palladium containing one or more tri-substituted monodentate phosphines, the molar ratio palladium/phosphines ranging from $\frac{1}{50}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$, more preferably from $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{30}$, in an aprotic polar solvent optionally containing an organic base; the above first step being carried out in the presence of a hydrogen donor, preferably formic acid, preferably in a stoichiometric ratio of 1:2 molar with respect to the butadiene;